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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 002188

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/I, NEA/ARPI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/15/2009

TAGS: PREL ECON ELAB IZ MU

SUBJECT: A WARNING FROM MOM

Classified By: Ambassador Richard L. Baltimore III.

Reason: 1.4 (b).

¶11. (U) On December 14, Oman's Ministry of Manpower (MOM) published an announcement warning citizens about employment in Iraq. The informal translation of the announcement is as follows (begin text):

The Ministry of Manpower has noticed the increase in employment offers in the brotherly Republic of Iraq through published advertisements in the press and employment offices.

In view of the current security situation witnessed in the Iraqi scene, the Ministry of Manpower calls upon Omani citizens not to be carried away by such monetary temptations offered to them in return for enrollment for employment in Iraq, in avoidance of the threats they might face until security and stability prevail over brotherly Iraq, God willing. (End text.)

¶12. (U) On December 15, coincidentally, Omani headlines were devoted to the results of the previous day's Cabinet meeting, chaired by Sultan Qaboos. The Sultan was reported as having expressed hope in the meeting that "the efforts of the interim Iraqi government and other parties concerned would succeed in achieving stability for the brotherly Iraqi people."

¶13. (C) Iraqi Ambassador-designate Abdul Rasul al-Wash told Pol/E Chief December 15 that he was somewhat disappointed with the Manpower Ministry's warning, but found the sentiments entirely understandable given the prevailing security situation in his country. He pointed out, after all, that the State Department similarly warns U.S. citizens from traveling to Iraq. Al-Wash confirmed that the Omani government did not consult with him before issuing the warning, but observed that he had not yet formally presented his credentials.

BALTIMORE